

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 DRC-01 IO-14 /090 W

----- 062496

R 070435Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9355

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 4518

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LA, VN

SUBJECT: LAO PUBLICIZE NORTH VIETNAMESE POW'S STRIKE

1. LAOS' MAJOR DAILY NEWSPAPER, XAT LAO, ON JUNE 6 PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON HUNGER STRIKE BY NORTH VIETNAMESE POWS AT SAM KHE CENTRAL PRISON IN VIENTIANE JUNE 4. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF XAT LAO FULL TEXT:
2. QUOTE THE 162 NORTH VIETNAMESE PRISONERS OF WAR PRESENTLY HELD AT THE SAME KHE CENTRAL PRISON IN VIENTIANE STARTED A HUNGER STRIKE TUESDAY NOON DEMANDING THAT THE PGNU FREE THEM AND REPATRIATE THEM TO NORTH VIETNAM.
3. ACCORDING TO A SAM KHE PRISON SOURCE, ON TUESDAY MORNING BEGINNING AT EIGHT O'CLOCK, THESE PRISONERS, ON INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN VIETNAMESE BY A LEADER, MOVED INTO FORMATION AND THEN MARCHED ONCE AROUND THE INNER COURTYARD OF THE PRISON BEFORE RETURNING TO THEIR INITIAL FORMATION.
4. ALL WHILE MARCHING THE DETAINEES CARRIED A GREEN PENNANT WITH A WHITE DOVE - THE SYMBOL OF PEACE - ACCOMPANIED BY SLO-

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GANS SUCH AS:

"CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PGNU."

"MAY ALL THE PARTIES IMPLEMENT THE VIENTIANE PEACE  
AGREEMENT AND ITS PROTOCOLS."

"FREE THE POWS AT SAM KHE 60 DAYS AFTER THE FORMATION  
OF THE PGNU."

"WE WANT TO RETURN HOME AND REJOIN OUR FAMILIES IN  
NORTH VIETNAM."

5. AFTER HAVING MADE THEIR MARCH AROUND THE COURTYARD, THE  
NORTH VIETNAMESE MOVED TO THE GRASS IN FRONT OF THE GUARDPOSTS  
AND OCCUPIED THIS GREEN SPACE FROM 10 UNTIL 2:00, REFUSING TO  
EAT THEIR LUNCH.

6. AT 2:00 O'CLOCK THEY RETURNED TO THEIR "APARTMENTS"; PUT  
ON THEIR MILITARY UNIFORMS; THEN FINALLY AGREE TO EAT.

7. FROM ONE SOURCE IT WAS LEARNED THAT MAJOR NGUYEN VAN LOC,  
THE HIGHEST RANKING OFFICER AMONG THE POWS, IS SUPPOSED TO  
HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED TO MEET WITH SUPERINTENDANT 1ST CLASS  
KAVINH KEOHAKHONE, DIRECTOR OF THE PRISON. SURROUNDED BY A  
GROUP OF DETAINED NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICERS, MAJOR NGUYEN VAN  
LOC EXPLAINED THE AIMS OF THE DEMONSTRATION TO THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE PRISON.

8. "WE HAVE NOT PROTESTED AGAINST THE PRISON DISCIPLINE,  
BUT WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR JOY OVER THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN  
LAOS, AND WE HAVE ACTED IN THIS WAY IN ORDER TO DEMAND OUR  
LIBERATION AND OUR REPATRIATION," DECLARED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE  
MAJOR. END QUOTE.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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